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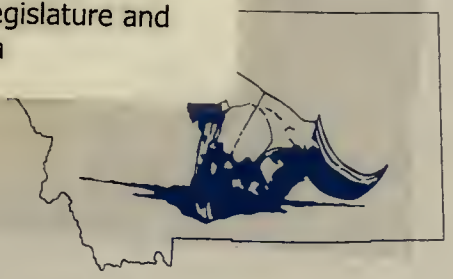
Montana Historical Society
The Montana Historical Society report to the 56th Legislature and the State of Montana



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MONTANA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Report to the 56th Legislature and the State of Montana

December 1, 1998

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THE SOCIETY'S MISSION

Since its founding in 1865, the Montana Historical Society has remained firmly committed to preserving and interpreting Montana and western American history. This is the foundation upon which all Society program activity is built.

As outlined by statute since the Society became a state agency in 1891, the mission of the Montana Historical Society is to:

> Collect, preserve, and interpret material that reflects and documents the history and prehistory of Montana and the region.
>
> Interpret Montana history through study, exhibits, publications, and educational programs.
>
> Encourage the preservation of Montana's historical, architectural, archaeological, and related cultural resources.
>
> Encourage and support high-quality research, publications, and exhibits that interpret local, state, and regional history, and cooperate with other institutions toward those ends.

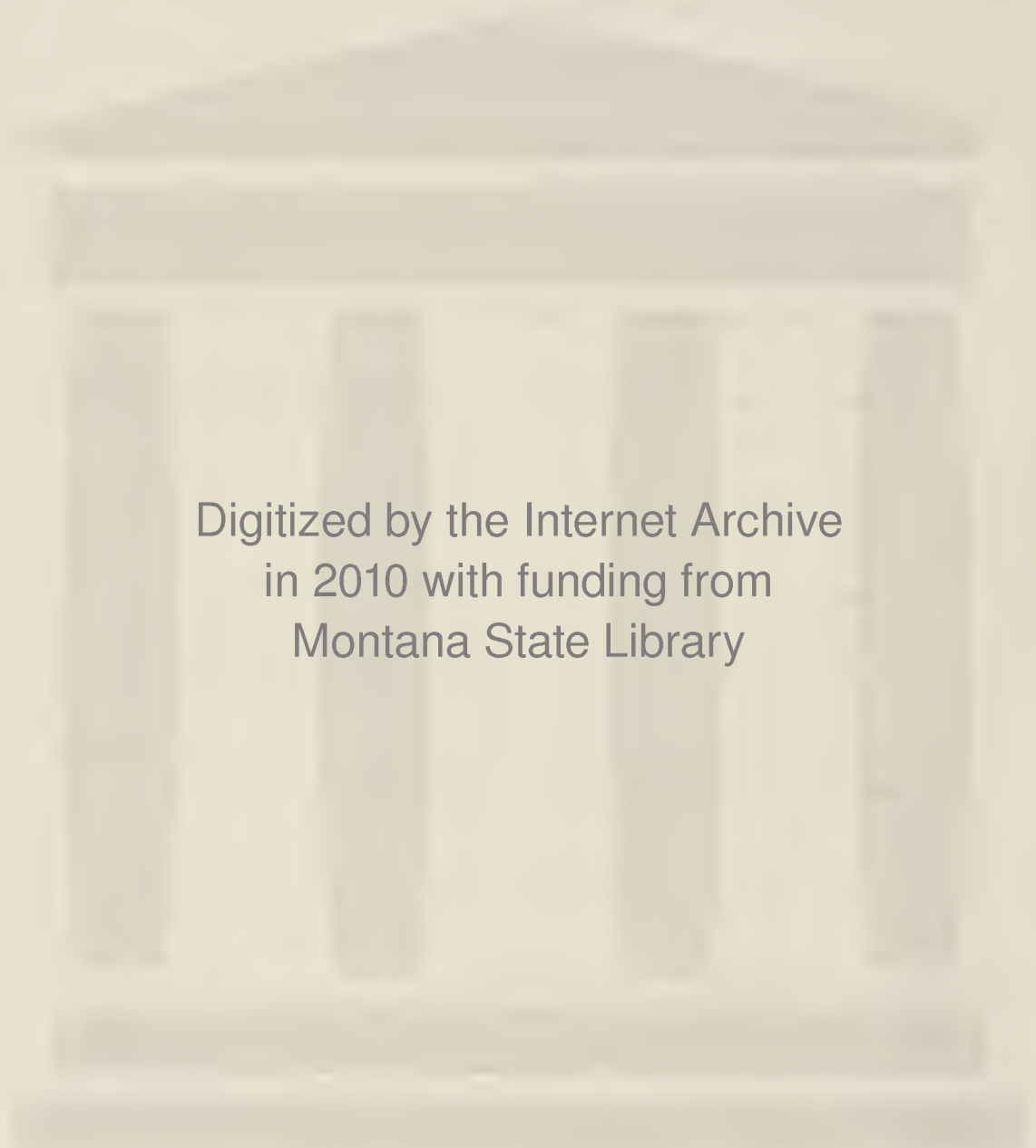
Keeping its statutory mission in mind, the Society's major goals for long-term growth and development are:

> To continually improve the level and quality of service the Society provides to all its constituents.
>
> To improve the support services and facilities required to preserve properly the collected materials entrusted to the Society.
>
> To enhance the Society's reputation and develop its presence as not only the oldest but also the finest historical organization in the West.
>
> To consistently exceed visitor expectations.
>
> To be among the very best historical organizations, anywhere, at which to work.

SOCIETY ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAMS

The Montana Historical Society is organized into five operating units, each headed by a program manager who reports to the Society director. These units are Administration, Library/Archives, Museum, Publications, and State Historic Preservation Office. The Heritage Preservation and Development Commission and the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission are attached to the Society for administrative purposes.

Overall, Society management is the responsibility of an administration program, which includes the director's office, public information, business office, personnel, security, facilities management, and state government liaison. The Society's membership is also part of administration.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ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Administration Program at the Montana Historical Society consists of the Director's Office, the Security Office, the Public Relations Office, the Centralized Services Office, and the Historic Research Office. The Administration program provides overall supervision of the agency, building management, fiscal and personnel management, special membership promotion, publicity and historical research.

The program's Events/Promotion Specialist in the Director's Office not only provides administrative support for the Director, but also performs the Special Membership function at the Society. Special Memberships offer several benefits including a subscription to Montana, the Magazine of Western History. In return these memberships provide funding for the Society's educational activities, which includes the following: lectures, programs, slide programs and exhibits that travel to schools around the state. No other source of money is available for these activities. Membership donations also provide funding for new publications, public programs, and new exhibits.

The Security Office provides overall security for the agency and its irreplaceable collections. Security includes maintenance of the intrusion security system, passive observation of visitors, crowd control for public events, checking of parcels, bags, etc. when visitors and staff depart, and providing emergency and accident response. An equally important function of the Security Unit is the public information aspect of the Unit's responsibilities. Security courteously provides information to visitors on the exhibits, Montana history, travel in Montana, sites and services in Helena, and answers to other questions when requested.

The Public Information Office provides material to inform thousands of Montanans about events, exhibits, and other services designed to educate people about Montana's heritage and to further efforts to collect and preserve the state's history. This effort also results in keeping the state's image in the public's mind, which has direct benefits in heritage tourism, attracting businesses to the state, and in raising funds for various heritage projects through grants and direct gifts from organizations and individuals in the private sector. This objective is accomplished via news releases, public service announcements, speaking events, special reports and national stories. The office also works with local historical and educational organizations across the state to encourage efforts to strengthen attitudes about what it has meant and what it means to be a Montanan, hopefully helping create better citizens.

The Historical Research Office provides verification, research, writing, and editing for projects and publications produced by the Society and cooperating agencies. This function also serves as Society representative for public events, including presentations on historical subjects. In addition, this office performs on-the-spot radio and television interviews and serves as a historical consultant to various partners.

The Centralized Services Office provides building management, fiscal management, and personnel management. These functions consist of budgeting, accounting, fiscal reporting, personnel management, building and property management, and computer management. The staff represent the agency in transactions with appropriate state and federal agencies, clients and the public.

FISCAL YEAR 1998-1999 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In addition to the expected administrative activity of the Director and Events/Promotion Specialist, a significant percentage of time was expended in staffing or cooperating with the Montana Heritage Preservation and Development Commission, the Montana Heritage Project, the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission, the Montana Recreation and Tourism Initiative, and the Board of Trustees of the Historical Society. To summarize the purpose of most of these involvements was to promote heritage tourism and to pursue fund raising for a myriad of Society projects.

The Events/Promotion Specialist secured additional Special Members for a total membership exceeding 1,200 donors during the last biennium.

The Security Unit provided security for the collections and provided information to 77,765 visitors in Fiscal Year 1998. They also performed 2,156 security inspections.

Major articles and electronic media stories dealing with efforts of all of the Montana Historical Society's programs to further the cause of Montana history and heritage through a variety of events and programs appeared during the biennium across the state. With no budget for advertising, the Public Information Office, in close cooperation with the Society staff, secured thousands of dollars of free publicity across the state. More than 300 people attended this year's Montana History Conference, and thousands more attended numerous other Society sponsored events statewide. The Society worked with the Helena Civic Center Board in 1998 to bring The Western Rendezvous of Art back to Montana from Park City, Utah, where it had been held in recent years. The event generated publicity and new friends for the Society across the nation, and more than $15,000 was raised for the Museum Program's art acquisition fund, which had been defunct for several years. In cooperation with the Publications Program, the Public Information Office secured reviews and other stories about new books published by the Society in papers and magazines across the nation. Our "Authors on the Road" series brought historians to many communities across the state in cooperation with local sponsors such as libraries. The Society was featured on C-Span, CNN, and other media across the country. The Information Office played a major role in raising money and generating public support for saving Virginia and Nevada cities, and the important legacy they represent to Montana. Either through direct appeals, including free full-page fund raising ads in all Montana daily newspapers, or hundreds of stories in papers and electronic media across the nation, the Information Office was responsible for helping raise hundreds of thousands of dollars from the private sector for the effort. The Information Office continues to respond to and generate state and national stories dealing with Virginia and Nevada cities. Publicity on the 1998 special "Butte Issue" of Montana The Magazine of Western History resulted in a record number of sales of the magazine and many new subscriptions and new memberships for the Society. The office continues to work closely with Travel Montana on numerous heritage tourism efforts and with other state agencies on special projects such as the new hiker-biker trail along the Mullan Road near Alberton that is a joint effort of the Society, Highway Department, and State Lands. Of equal importance are the hundreds of private sector people who have contacted the Society for information on Montana history and heritage that have been served by this office. In short, the Information Office is the voice of the Society and thereby that of the interests of Montana history and heritage.

During the 1998-1999 biennium, the Historical Research Office verified, researched, wrote, and edited for several specific projects: *Speaking of Montana: A Guide to the Oral History Collection at the Montana Historical Society*, the Art Ortenberg/Liz Claiborne Montana Heritage Project; the Stuart Connor Rock Art collection; the Montana Club historical tours; the Governor's Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission; various Society awards and

designations; nominations to the National Register of Historic Places; session presentations at the annual Montana History Conference; biographical sketches for Capitol displays--including the niches within the "Gallery of Outstanding Montanans."

In addition, the Research Historian served as the Society's representative for the annual Centennial Bell/Outstanding Montana History Teacher Award competition, the annual (Helena) Vigilante Day Parade judging, and various dedications and openings. The position further: delivered public presentations on historical topics; developed research papers on Society history; facilitated public donations to the Society's Library/Archives and Museum; served as a Montana history authority for academicians, media representatives, and the general public; consulted with various Society departments regarding exhibits, manuscripts, and publications; contributed expertise to outside conferences, projects, and promotions; reviewed historical material for cooperating state offices and agencies.

During fiscal year 1998 the Centralized Services Office ensured that the Agency's Accounting System was in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting principles. The Agency maintained an Accounts Receivable system for a total of $76,955.00 at the end of FY98. This office ensured the safeguarding and accountability for $41,984,822.00 of assets including the Russell collection, the Monographs collection, the Museum Collection, the Daly and Moss Mansion, and the Library collection. This office also maintained an Inventory System which consists of $370,255 of merchandise and books sold to the public. More specifically this office: prepared the Biennial Budget with budget modifications during the year consisting of federal and private grants; maintained the Statewide Budget and Accounting System; maintained 5 major grants with additional subgrants; maintained the accounts receivable system for 100 active clients and processed 1,200 applicable statements; maintained and reviewed 45 SBAS centers monthly for accuracy and budgetary control; tracked 7 programs monthly; processed approximately 2,000 payroll forms and records; performed quarterly audits of the Daly and Moss mansions; oversaw implementation of audit recommendations; and outlined plans regarding more efficient internal control for the enterprise and grant programs. In addition, this office also prepared quarterly financial reports for the Society's governing Board of Directors. During this period the Society is continuing to network in the Administration Program, Library Program and Museum Program.

THE 2000-2001 BIENNIUM

The Director and Events/Promotion Specialist will continue staffing or cooperating with the Montana Heritage Project, the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission, the Montana Recreation and Tourism Initiative, and the Board of Trustees of the Historical Society to promote heritage tourism and to pursue fund raising for a myriad of Society projects.

The Events/Promotion Specialist will also continue to not only maintain the current Special Members but will search for new members in order to expand the funding source to support the educational activities at the Society.

Additional funding was requested for the Agency computer network system. This system will allow the Society to implement a computer system that would allow us to develop electronic databases that provide adequate information about our collections, projects, events, and also enable the agency to work more efficiently and cost effective. This will be an agency wide network and benefit all programs at the Society.

The Security Function plans to install additional cameras and monitors as authority is available. The security function will continue to provide security for the collections, information to visitors, and perform inspections as needed.

The Society continues to focus on efforts to serve all Montanans across the state with programs and services of interest and benefit to them and their communities. The Information Office will continue to help take the lead in these efforts with the various programs and to listen to local citizens about what they want from the Society. In the last issue of this report, the office pledged to work on the acquisition of Virginia and Nevada cities, to work with our Albertan counterparts on heritage tourism efforts and to help expand public programs. All of those goals were reached. In the next biennium, the office will continue to support promotion and fund raising efforts for Virginia and Nevada cities to help ensure that the irreplaceable historical resources continue to be available for all Montanans. With the approach of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial, the office will work closely with the new State Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission on promotion of and information on the famous expedition. Those efforts already are underway, and Director Clint Blackwood has gotten information on his activities in numerous papers across the state in conjunction with the Information Office's contacts. We also are launching a new educational outreach program in cooperation with our Education Office, which will require great public awareness. The office will continue to strive to put the resources and voices of Montana history before the public in an education and entertaining way.

During the 2000-2001 biennium, the Historical Research Office will continue to provide research, verification, editing, writing, and public-speaking as needed by the various programs in the Society, by cooperating agencies, and for the general public. The office also will serve as the Society's consultant on outside projects and boards, represent the Society at public functions, task forces, and facilitate the interaction of the public with the Society's collections.

The Centralized Services Office will continue to provide fiscal, personnel, and building management and support for the Agency. As funded, the office will implement and manage the computer network system. The office will continue to ensure the Accounting is in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. This program will continue to focus on providing security for the collections of the state, providing information to visitors, increasing awareness of the Society and its services, serving as a source of funding for education activities both in schools around the state and at the Society, providing historic research as needed. The focus will also continue to include: maintenance of the accounting system in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles; expanding the services of the Society into every corner of this state; and attempting to involve as many citizens as possible in preserving Montana's heritage.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Library and Archives Program incorporates three functional sections: the Library, the Archives, and the Photograph Archives. Dating its collecting from 1865 and its public reference service from 1887, the Library is the oldest department of the Society. Although pioneer diaries and letters were collected from the Society's start, and some older state records were taken in for safekeeping before 1969, it was in that year that the State Archives was created by law. In 1974, the Photograph Archives became a separately-maintained collection. The different sections each collect distinctive materials and employ distinctive methodologies to organize and service their collections. The Library holds printed or "published" material in all formats; the Archives collects unpublished, "original" material, including oral history

audiotapes; and the Photograph Archives gathers in photographs, and archival, or one-of-a-kind, non-commercial films and videotapes.

The Program houses and services the nation's most comprehensive collection of historical research material pertaining to Montana. Its collections contain over 100,000 volumes, 200,000 historical images, 15,000 reels of microfilm, mostly of the 1,200 runs of Montana newspapers in the Library, 16,000 maps, 1,900 taped interviews, 13,000 cubic feet of manuscripts and territorial and state government records, and 11,800 quick reference subject files.

Permanent staff number 15 (13.75 Full-Time-Equivalent), with 6, counting the program administrator, assigned to the library, 5 in the Photo Archives where two photographers split one position and a three-quarters support position is paid from earned revenues, and 4 in the Archives, which also has at present a half-time clerical worker through the Green Thumb program.

This staff is responsible for collecting, organizing, preserving, and assisting the public and the staff of other Society programs in the use of this wealth of research material. For security and preservation, storage stacks are closed to the public and materials do not circulate, but are made available to visitors through two public reference rooms. The Program also operates a darkroom to provide photographic prints to the public, and shares with the Museum the use of a small conservation laboratory.

The Archives provides a special service to other state offices, helping them identify records which have historical value, and arranging for their transfer for permanent keeping and research use. The Library performs much the same service for state publications, reviewing state publications being discarded by other state offices to ensure the preservation of at least one copy of all state publications. The Program encourages significant new written contributions to Montana history through annual James H. Bradley Summer Fellowships. Funded by an endowment from a private citizen, the Bradleys support two scholars for a four weeks research residency. The scholars submit articles drawn from their research for possible publication in the Society's magazine. The Archives regularly provides internships and training in archival procedures and activities to college history students, particularly from Carroll College but also has trained graduate students from the University of Montana and Montana State University.

The State Archivist serves as the chair and state coordinator of the gubernatorially-appointed State Historic Records Advisory Council, which reviews and makes recommendations to the National Archives on proposals from Montana institutions seeking federal grant funds for archival projects. The Archivist also serves on the State Records Committee, which reviews requests from state agencies to destroy or otherwise dispose of their inactive records, and the recently-created Local Government Records Advisory Committee, which brings together state, county and city records managers to work cooperatively on records management problems on all government levels.

The Society Librarian and Program Administrator serves as the alternate on all these committees, and also as an adviser to Publications and Graphics for state publishing, and the Chair of the Bradley Fellowship Committee.

FISCAL YEAR 1998 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Reference and Research Assistance

The Library and Archives' most visible public service is assisting visitors in its two public research rooms. The main reference room where all library and archival materials must be used is on the second floor of the Pioneer and Veterans Memorial Building, and is open 8 to 5 weekdays, and the first Saturday of each month from 9 to 4:30. The Photograph Archives maintains a smaller reference room on the third floor, which, because of the small number of staff, is open to the public only from 1 to 5 p.m., although morning appointments are made for any special circumstances. Researchers include students of all levels, genealogists, academic scholars, other state employees, contract historians, and a broad spectrum of the general public from both Montana and out-of-state. Staff not only help researchers find pertinent material but, as subject experts in Montana history, often advise on interpreting these materials. Staff also respond to requests by mail, E-mail, fax and telephone for information on Montana and Western history, and, from libraries, historical societies, museums, and local governments around the state and from colleagues in other states, for professional advice on the proper handling and the preservation of special materials such as rare books, business records, or historical photographs.

The Program experienced in Fiscal Year 1998, as it has nearly every year through the last decade, an increase in researcher visits, with the 7,604 registrants in the two reference rooms a 7% increase over the previous reporting period. Staff also responded to 2,023 requests by mail, and to just under 6,000 telephone inquiries. It supplied material that will be included in 79 books including several aspiring historical novels, 2 plays, one of which is being written in France on Calamity Jane, 67 articles, both scholarly and popular, 10 exhibits in other institutions, and at least 17 documentary and commercial films and videotapes, testifying to the national reputation of the Society's collections. This national usefulness is also indicated by the fact that, in the summer, 35 to 40% of the visiting researchers are from out-of-state, as are around 70% of the mail inquiries year-round. On-site researchers consulted over 7,600 reels of microfilm, 5,000 books, pamphlets, state publications and magazine volumes, 750 folders of maps, 2,800 ready reference files, over 4,400 current Montana newspaper issues, with at least 12,000 consultations of the city directories and the run of Montana, the Magazine of Western History available in the reference collection. Over the last 15 years, all manner of use has increased, with a 71% increase in research visitors, a 54% increase in mail reference, and a stunning 300% increase in telephone reference.

A special service provided by the Library in cooperation with the Office of Public Instruction, which publishes it, is a 27-page booklet entitled Montana, A Classroom Guide to the Study of the State, compiled and updated by the Society's research historian. This is the centerpiece of the "school packet" which the Library mails in response to the pleas of school children around the nation for free materials about Montana and its history. Several state offices, including the Legislative Council and the Governor's Office, refer such requests to the Society. In Fiscal Year 1998, 148 such packets were mailed. Interestingly, this is a decline over recent years, reflecting, evidence suggests, not so much a lessening interest in Montana or in assigning "learn about a state" projects in the nation's elementary schools, but the presence of a lot of pertinent information and material about the state on the Internet. Microcomputers have also made possible the in-house production of informational brochures indicating the collections' principal resources for genealogical research, or women's history. A variety of such have been added to the previously available publications of the Program, which include A Union List of Montana Newspapers in Montana Repositories and microfiche catalogs of the map collection and the Haynes Photograph Collection. The Program also provides duplicate reels at cost of those Montana newspapers which it has microfilmed principally to public libraries around the state, and duplicates of its oral history interviews.

A primary service of the Photograph Archives is the production of prints for the public from photographs in the collection. Fiscal Year 1998 saw a new annual record set with 2,444 prints. These included such diverse orders as 44 prints for the Salish Kootenai College for an Arlee Pow Wow book, 25 slides for the Montana Heritage Program at St. Ignatius High School, 122 slides for research use at the Smithsonian, 35 slides and videotape copies of film footage of horses to the Hunter-Neil Co., a Disney Films production company, with much of this ending up in a documentary on the making of The Horse Whisperer, and 22 prints for the Arts and Entertainment television channel which were aired in a Biography episode on Myrna Loy. An additional 1,109 prints were produced for other departments of the Society, especially for the quarterly magazine and newsletter, for the Historical Society Press for inclusion in its books, and for the Museum's exhibits on "Hats in History" and on Montana's military involvement in the Spanish-American War. Revenues from the sale of prints fund the Society's dark room operation. The Archival Photographers also document the Society's present activities, including photographing the now state-owned buildings in Virginia City to provide a record of the "before," whatever may come after.

In their role as the state's official government archives, Archives staff responded to 134 requests from 20 agencies for advice and assistance on records. They also provided professional advice and assistance to 43 local government entities around the state, mostly by telephone, but also with visits to Terry and Jordan where county courthouses had both had fires. Archives staff also provided 11 workshops on records managing, techniques of oral history, and preserving family treasures safely in scrapbooks, in 8 different cities and towns.

The Photograph Archives conducted a workshop on basic care and handling of photograph collections at the Montana Library Association annual convention in Missoula in April, while many Program staff contributed in one form or another to the Society's annual History Conference in October of 1997 in Helena and October 1998 in Great Falls and Fort Benton, and to the first and second Father's Day Open Houses, where behind-the-scenes tours guiding visitors through the working and closed-stack storage areas of the collections have drawn some 300 visitors each year, even when the weather outside has been good.

Although most of the Program's materials cannot be borrowed because of their uniqueness or rarity, the Library does loan duplicate copies of its non-rare books and microfilm copies of its most sought-after resource, the territorial and state newspapers of Montana, through interlibrary loan. In Fiscal Year 1998, the Library mailed out nearly 3,500 reels of microfilm in response to 459 loan requests, with 58% of these to other Montana libraries.

Acquisitions and Collection Development

Building and improving its diverse collections is another primary function of the Library and Archives. These collections are the Program's principal legacy to the future. It is often necessary to acquire such locally-printed materials as county or town histories soon after they are published if the Library is to have a copy at all, and significant manuscript materials and historical photographs, like gold, are where you find them, but, unlike gold, if not acquired and preserved, will perish from the accidents and ravages of time. As reference demands have increased, so have the acquisition tasks' as more Montana-related publications, more government records, more films and videotapes and photographs, are generated than ever before. In Fiscal Year 1998, the Library added 3,344 items, including books, pamphlets, maps, serial issues, microfilm reels, and posters, as well as thousands of daily and weekly issues of the 94 Montana newspapers it receives, and uncounted scores of pieces of printed ephemera, such as tickets, theater programs, small handbills, and bumper stickers. The Archives acquired 96 new manuscript collections totaling 304 linear feet. With very little free storage space left, it had to be much more selective in accepting state records, taking in some 49 collections which totaled only 314 feet, whereas in previous recent years it had always

taken in over a thousand. It also acquired state records in non-paper formats, including 1,000 sheets of microfiche, 105 reels of 35mm microfilm, and 12 videotapes. Although only a small amount of Archives staff time can be given to Oral History collecting and no sizable interviewing project was undertaken this year, 50 tapes containing 31 interviews or recordings of lectures were added. The Photograph Archives acquired 5,750 additional images, and 46 reels of motion picture film.

For most of these acquisitions, the Program relied on the generosity of private donors or the friendliness of other institutions. While the Library has some monies for acquiring materials in its general fund budget, this must be spent primarily on the purchase of currently-published books and magazines before they go out of print and become, ultimately, more expensive and much more time-consuming to obtain. It also has some small endowment funds earmarked to purchase additions in specific subject areas or kinds, such as the Teakle Range Cattle Industry Collection. Even in the Library, purchases comprised less than 20% of the Library's additions, and, with only a few exceptions, all the additions to the Archives and Photograph Archives came by gift, or, in a few cases, through the trade of duplicate materials with private collectors. All told, over 450 private citizens and other institutions donated materials, including 93 publishers of newspapers.

One of the most sizable and significant donations to the Society in recent years has been the Warren McGee Northern Pacific Railroad materials, completed this year. Mr. McGee, of Livingston, was a career employee of the NP and a serious amateur photographer, and documented the railroad through four decades with some 20,000 photographs. He also collected railroad-related publications, from trade books to time schedules and engineer's manuals, and books on Montana and Western American history. All these, along with boxes of research notes and scrapbooks with newspaper clippings of railroad activities, have been donated to the Library and Archives. The donation will make the Photograph Archives one of the "must" stops for hundreds of railroad history aficionados. At present, most of the photographs have not yet been physically transferred to the Society. Another sizable addition to the Photograph Collection were 540 glass negatives and two cubic feet of film negatives from the Emerick Studio in Choteau, the majority dating from 1912-1922, while an interesting glimpse into history can come from 11 early home motion picture films taken, from 1919 through 1921, of family gatherings and doings at the Marcus Daly mansion in Hamilton. A noteworthy addition to our archival documents of the Pioneer West came with the donation of the field diary of Lt. Edward Godfrey, of the 7th Cavalry, whose account of the battle of the Little Big Horn for the Century magazine is one of the best known participant reports. The diary is for 1877, and thus includes entries for the battle near the Bears Paw mountains that brought an end to the Nez Perce war. Godfrey was later awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his part in this action. The Archives also acquired an additional Charlie Russell letter, one written to another famous Montana cowboy, Teddy Blue Abbott, in 1923, and appraised at $25,000 even without an illustration. The state's purchase of the Bovey properties in Virginia City brought to the Archives some 15 additional feet of early business records from the town, and 198 ledgers from the Elling Bank, documenting the continuing importance of VC through the end of the 19th century as a regional wholesale center, although no longer of much import in mining. Montana newspapers are one of the Library's most important, and used, collections, and any additions to the already comprehensive holdings are especially welcome. The Library fills in gaps whenever it can locate issues by borrowing the originals to microfilm. During this year, the publisher of the present Fort Benton River Press loaned issues from 1899-1902 to film, and the Central Montana Historical Society in Lewistown loaned 17 issues of the Winifred Times that were earlier than any in the Society's collection, and 7 issues of the Hilger Herald, of which the Society previously had none at all. The Library also received short runs of several early papers being discarded from the Library of Congress. Although the Society's collection already contained most, the gift furnishes some valuable additional issues of the Deer Lodge

New Northwest for the first months of 1871, and of the Montana Democrat of Virginia City for 1868. And the University of Montana Library transferred to the Society 40 volumes of bound originals of the Helena Weekly Record from 1917 into 1942, which, surprisingly, the Society did not have in either originals or microfilm, although the contents of the weekly issues were drawn entirely from the daily versions, which the Society did have. Another enhancement of a much-used collection came as the Library learned of a Connecticut firm that had microfilmed Montana city directories from 1900 through 1935, and was able to purchase 26 reels that filled gaps in the library's runs of directories from almost every Montana city or town for which they were published.

Cataloging and Processing

Until cards for books and maps are put in the public card catalog, and sorting, selecting, arranging and inventories are done on the incoming collections of manuscripts, records and photographs, the materials are not truly accessible to the public. This work goes on unseen and unheralded by the public, but is essential to making the collections usable and useful.

The Library gives priority to cataloging and processing current acquisitions and gifts, and then technical services staff proceed to older, "backlog" problems as time permits. In Fiscal Year 1998, the Cataloger did keep up with the current and was also able to begin a systematic cataloging of map acquisitions, where little had been done since the 1986 completion of a 3-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to catalog the core of the map collection. The Library entered 858 new records into the Western Library Network (WLN), the regional computer data base used by hundreds of libraries in Montana and the Pacific Northwest. As of the end of October, 1998, the Library had 11,132 titles from its holdings entered into what will, one day, provide it with a machine-searchable catalog of its holdings. The Library still has only some 20% at most of its collections entered, as it has only been able to use WLN for 12 years, and staff time goes first to cataloging newly acquired books and serials. The special nature, often bordering on uniqueness, of the Library's materials is reflected in the fact that, despite the several million items cataloged into WLN already, the Library cataloger must do original cataloging, meaning the Society is the first institution to describe this work, on nearly 50% of the books, pamphlets, magazines and maps she enters into the system. In something of a pioneering effort, the Archives also entered brief descriptions of 462 of its most important collections into WLN. This represented only a relatively small fraction of its total number of collections, but included 73% of the largest and richest manuscript and business records collections, with all of these, of course, unique to the Society. During the year, the Archives accessioned 146 additional collections, totaling 619 linear feet. 69 manuscript collections and 3 collections of state records, totaling 143 linear feet, received complete processing, with fully-detailed inventories produced. 6 additional manuscript and 32 additional state records collections, totaling 691 linear feet, received preliminary processing, with 152 feet of duplicate, irrelevant or insignificant material weeded, and preliminary finding aids done. The Photograph Archives controlled through its computerized accessioning system the 96 additional subcollections added, totaling 5,750 items, and completed more detailed cataloging on 1,107 images.

Preservation

In the Library and Archives Program, the present and the future are always in conflict. With its reference and research services, its finding aids and catalogs and its entries in dozens of national directories that describe its collections, and through entering its current acquisitions into a regional automated network, and its newspaper holdings into a national database tappable by thousands of libraries, the Program strives to raise awareness of what is in its collections and thus encourage their use. At the same time, it has statutory responsibility to preserve these same materials as best it can for the use and enjoyment of future generations

of Montanans. Much of its preservation work consists of transferring incoming materials into proper storage containers such as acid-free folders for manuscripts and inert plastic sleeves for photographs. Materials are also examined for mold or insects, cleaned, paper clips and staples removed, and flattened or humidified as needed. All footage processed by the Archives receives such attention, and even incoming collections that will not soon be fully processed are checked to guard against importing insects, mold or other harmful matter, and often are given preliminary cleaning. In addition, the Archives replaced documents too fragile for repeated handling or which were on short-lived paper, such as thermofax, with 1,534 acid-free paper photocopies, cleaned 3,200 pages of documents, and humidified 986 brittle, usually oversize, sheets. The Photograph Archives cleaned 852 glass negatives, and sleeved or resleeved in mylar, and otherwise upgraded the storage for roughly 3,500 additional negatives and prints. The Library's conservation effort was necessarily and unfortunately diminished when the one staff member trained to perform a variety of paper and book preservation tasks had to undergo serious surgery compelling several weeks of recovery time. Moreover, only one week per month can ever be given to preservation work because of other library duties to perform. Nonetheless, the conservator managed to provided treatment for 258 items, and respond to over twenty inquiries from other institutions and individual citizens about care of items. In many cases, some repairs and stabilizing and restoration, such as the removal of old spine labels, the mending of tears, and the fixing of cover hinges is having to be done on what are the library's special Montana rarities, subject to long neglect and perhaps some carelessness in the past, and too battered and disreputable-looking to put on public exhibit unless refurbished. Under the rubric of preservation also falls the annual microfilming of the two Montana daily newspapers that are not filmed by a commercial service, and of one-half of the eighty-some weeklies published in the state, and the annual microfilming of several hundred feet of records from the archives collections, both of those where the originals are too fragile to use, or too bulky in relation to any artifactual interest and so the microfilm can replace the originals with the saving of considerable storage space. Currently the Archives is concentrating on the filming of some 110,000 pages of petitions (for initiatives, etc.) received through half-a-century by the Secretary of State's office.

Special Projects and Activities

Fourteen volunteers contributed 1,092 hour, roughly the equivalent of 40 work weeks, to a variety of projects within each department of the Program that could not otherwise have been done, or not done this soon. This was almost twice as much time contributed as in the last reporting period, and amounted to over 27 full work weeks, or more than half a year of a full-time, additional staff member. Their tasks often were as complex as producing an initial, single-entry card file as a preliminary finding aid to the several hundred posters in the Library's collection or processing a collection of records of an organization of which the volunteer was a member, or producing typed transcripts of oral history interviews.

The Program continued to be open on the first Saturday of each month when it was not a holiday, a practice that started in November, 1995. Although increased public hours means staff must spend more time on public reference to the detriment of other tasks, the Society wished to provide special support for the Montana Heritage research program going on in several Montana high schools, as well as improve the access for the general public.

Drawing funds from wherever they could be scraped together, including some one-time grants from the Historical Society Foundation, the Program updated and upgraded its computer capabilities, both with the Sun/Star unix-based system that provides the computerized cataloging and ever-growing data base for the archives collections, and the Windows-using work stations in the Library and the Photo Archives. The Library's older, networked computers, consisting mainly of obsolete, low-speed, low-capacity (relatively-speaking) 286's, began to die one-by-one, and repairs and parts were no longer available. They were replaced

with much more powerful, stand-alone stations. The Photograph Archives joined with the Business Office in setting up an initial Agency system, while the Library and Archives obtained sophisticated and powerful enough machinery to be able to sign up for the Internet, and begin to make use of E-Mail. To date, the E-Mail capability has not drawn the deluge of information requests anticipated, but they are steadily on the increase, while staff use it for business with other agencies and institutions that would before have been done by regular mail or telephone. Each section has also has informational pages on a new Historical website, at www.his.mt.gov.

The Library at last neared completion of the disposal of many thousands of irrelevant federal publications received during the years the Society Library was a designated federal depository for publications distributed by the Government Printing Office(GPO). It was the first such in Montana, and for many years, until the State Library was established in Helena, ordered publications desired by other state agencies for their current operations as well as those particularly pertinent to Montana history. Federal publications received as a depository remain the property of the federal government, and must be disposed of only in a prescribed manner, including first offering them to other federal depository libraries in the state. They may be sold, but all revenues thus generated go to the GPO. Although progress has been sporadic, over a decade of effort has cleared an entire stack level of space (which rapidly filled with overflow Archives acquisitions).

The Archives completed an earlier Cultural Trust grant, a kind of culmination to the work accomplished in the decade a separate Oral History office was funded, on a biennial basis, through Cultural Grants, in the publication of a 272-page guide to the Society's accumulated oral history collection entitled Speaking of Montana. The guide was widely distributed to Montana libraries, and provides a means for prospective researchers to see if the collection contains anything pertinent to their researches. A more modest, computer-produced "publication" by the Archives was a guide for state government offices on E-Mail as records--when a permanent record should be kept of the traffic, and in what format, and other conundrums created by the electronic and quickly changeable and eradicable nature of the medium. The State Archivist experienced a small boom of demand for her workshop on this matter, including providing an abridged briefing on this record-keeping "problem" for the Governor's cabinet.

Besides producing high-quality photographic prints for exhibits at the Society and elsewhere, the Photograph Archives also got into the artifact-loaning business, when the San Francisco Museum of Art borrowed four vintage Evelyn Cameron prints for an exhibit called "Crossing the Frontier." The Museum later wished to purchase some duplicate older prints from the Cameron Collection to add to their permanent collection.

The Program received a Cultural Trust Grant for $17,000 from the 1997 Legislature to assist the Archives in processing speedily and effectively the 1,076 feet of medical and case records rendered homeless by the closure of the Galen Hospital. (This facility was established to treat tuberculosis, and evolved into treating a variety of modern substance abuses, including alcohol). The grant permitted the consulting of a historian as to the potential historical-social research usefulness of the various records even though personal names must be kept confidential, a medical records expert to identify those types of records most necessary for historical-medical research, and a temporary archival technician to sort and select from the thousands of case files according to the guidelines supplied by the consultants. As this project nears its conclusion, it has managed to reduce the bulk of the records even slightly more than the 50% hoped for at the beginning.

The State Archives, in conjunction with the Historic Records Advisory Council, a gubernatorially-appointed panel attached to and administered by the Archives, and necessary

if the state is to receives grants for records and manuscripts from the National Archives, completed one such grant when it completed the compilation and published Records at Risk: A Report on Montana's Historical Records and a Strategic Plan for Their Survival. This was a complete review and revision of a first survey and plan done in 1982.

THE 2000-2001 BIENNIUM

As the Society has expanded its activity in other areas, and general funds for increased staff virtually ceased to be available for any Program over the last decade, the Library and Archives has found its permanent staffing particularly static. The last additional general fund position received was that of the Archival Photographer in 1981. With its functions and services not very amenable to fees and thus to generating revenues, it has been able to add and sustain only one part-time position, and that in 1988 with revenues earned by the reproduction of photographs. Thus the Program, confronted with a steadily increasing demand for its traditional services must give most of its staff effort to these services in any given year. But it also must resolve some special problems and hopes to effect some improvements, especially through increased and increasingly skillful use of electronic technology. The highest priority, however, must go to a resolution of increasing collection storage space, especially for the Archives, which has so neared its capacity that the Program has already diverted operating funds to monthly rental of some basic, commercial off-site storage. Because such storage is without sufficient security, has inadequate environmental control for paper preservation, and no efficient access, only the least-significant, lowest-priority materials can be stored there. The Archives will continue to be as selective as is compatible with the performance of its statutory obligations to the preservation of historically significant state government records to be selective in those it takes in, in reviewing currently held but unprocessed material for possible discard, and in microfilming more archival material where it is not important to keep the original. Nevertheless, enough space cannot be recaptured to ensure sufficient space to take in any large new collections, and some sort of space relief, either through the purchase of compact shelving, or funds for the rental of satisfactory off-site storage, is still being sought in the upcoming budget. Updating and improving its automated operations will also increasingly become a necessity, especially as Montana schools begin to make extensive use of the Internet and have expectations of being able to find help for Montana history research from the Society there. While the Program has managed by hook-and-crook to become fairly up-to-date in its computer equipment, the future is precarious if it cannot achieve the steady source of general funding sufficient to update and replace equipment, one of the dark sides of computer technology certainly being the rapidity with which hardware and software become obsolete and abandoned. Still, the new electronics might offer some solutions to what has always been a major problem for the Program, how to better share its collections with students and the researching public throughout the state, although it cannot circulate unique and rare materials and still maintain the integrity of the collection, or fulfill its job of preserving the materials for the future. The Photograph Archives is already studying what possibilities digitizing technology and compact discs might offer to help a distant, would-be researcher consult the collections for items pertinent to the research. Apart from technology, all sections of the Program will continue to identify and try to fill gaps in the collections, to maintain the research depth of the collections and the extensiveness of its assistance, to make it even increasingly the must use and most necessary shop for researching Montana history and finding Montana ancestors.

MUSEUM PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Museum Program collects fine art, and historical, archeological, and ethnological artifacts that pertain to Montana and its adjoining geographic region. In addition to caring for the Society's museum collections, program staff conduct research, produce exhibits, sponsor public programs, answer reference requests from the public, and provide technical assistance to other museums and historical societies. The Museum also operates the Original Governor's Mansion as an historic site open to the public. Through the Museum's Education Office guided tours, school services, conferences, workshops, classes, publications, hands-on activities, and other public events are provided. The Museum also administers volunteer services within the Society and coordinates a major annual event—the Montana State History Conference.

FISCAL YEAR 1998-1999 ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The many public activities of the Museum Program reach a large and diverse audience throughout the state and region.

In Fiscal Year 1997:

Over 91,158 people visited the Society's Museum

Educational outreach programs reached over 49,157 individuals (includes tours of the Original Governor's Mansion, tours of the Capitol, and school tours of the Society exhibits, along with lectures, seminars, workshops, etc.)

In Fiscal Year 1998:

Over 77,765 people visited the Society's Museum (non-Legislative year)

Educational outreach programs reached over 42,396 individuals

This biennium, the Montana Historical Society Museum was awarded the highest honor a museum can receive—accreditation by the American Association of Museums. This is the third consecutive time the Society has received this distinction. Of the 8,000-plus museums in the United States, only approximately 750 have achieved AAM accreditation which is a process that measures high standards in the areas of managing collections responsibly and providing quality service to the public.

Museum Exhibits

Permanent exhibits include:

Montana Homeland - covers the story of Montana's human history, 14,000 years ago to World War II
Mackay Gallery of Charles M. Russell Art - approximately 180 artworks by Montana's most famous western artist
F. J. Haynes: Photographer - portrays the life and work of the official photographer for both the Northern Pacific Railroad (1884-1904) and Yellowstone National Park (1887-1916)

Temporary exhibits are featured in the Northeast Gallery, the "Reflections" area of the ***Montana Homeland*** exhibit, and other exhibit galleries. During the last two fiscal years temporary exhibits have included:

The Lure of the Parks
F.J. Haynes: Fifty Views
Painting Ladies: Women Artists and the Montana Experience
Montana Monthly (Historic Calendars)
Off the Top: Hats and History
Butte in the Era of the Copper Kings
Fanny Cory's Fairy Alphabet
Native American Ledger Art
Rush to Glory: Montanans at War, 1898
Montana's Constitutional Convention
Hans Kleiber Etchings
New Art Acquisitions
Native American Headdresses presented to Sen. Metcalf
Textiles from Montana's Past

The following seven traveling exhibits, developed by the Museum Program, toured to eight venues throughout the state and region during the last fiscal year:

Buildings in the Balance: Saving Montana's Historic Places
Butte in the Era of the Copper Kings
Children in Montana
F.J. Haynes: Fifty Views
The Lure of the Parks
Montana's Constitutional Convention
Montana Collage
Photographing Montana: The World of Evelyn Cameron 1894-1928
The Stack Dominated Our Lives
Liberties With Liberty

Off-site exhibits included:

The Capitol's Gallery of Outstanding Montanans
Capitol Offices: Governor's Office, Lt. Governor's Office, and the offices of the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House

The Museum loans art and artifacts from its collections to other museums throughout the state and nation for exhibits they produce. Loans were made to the following institutions in fiscal years 1997 and 1998:

Denver Art Museum, Colorado
Bighorn County Museum, Hardin
Carroll College, Helena
Historical Museum at Fort Missoula
Holter Museum of Art, Helena
Great Plains Studies Art Collection, Lincoln, Nebraska
National Mining Museum Hall of Fame, Leadville, Colorado
Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum, Colorado
C.M. Russell Museum, Great Falls
Western Heritage Center, Billings

Acquisition

The Museum Program received 1690 items from 183 individual donors in the last two fiscal years, and more than 4,000 objects from the Museum collection were individually catalogued. Highlights of the donations to the Museum included: bell from the Dempsey-Gibbons fight in Shelby; E.E. Heikka goat sculpture; Buckley bomb (WWII leaflet-dropping "bomb"); rifle which belonged to artist John Clarke; *USS Montana* silver service; collection of 300 Native American artifacts; and a collection of 25 vintage pocket watches.

Collections Activities

Continuing improvements were made in our storage areas. Our 2,000 piece art collection was completely rehoused in new custom-built storage units as a result of a Federal grant from the Institute for Museum Services; a part-time Museum technician was hired for one year and an art conservator made three on-site visits to the Museum as part of this project. Old painting storage units were dismantled and new units were built, installed and the art collection was organized into the units. In addition all of our paintings were surface cleaned, had condition assessments completed, were catalogued and were photographed.

Our museum volunteers enabled us to complete projects and improve collections care beyond what would have been possible with current staff. Seven volunteers assisted staff in the 1996 fiscal year with over 1,146 hours of work completed—the equivalent of .6 full-time staff. Volunteers completed many tasks including: cataloguing, filing, typing, artifact research, art appraisal, object preservation, etc.

Conservation activity continued in-house with our trained volunteers cleaning items which were slated for exhibits and items identified as high priority by the Museum staff. Art and objects needing major cleaning or repair were treated by professional conservators on contract. During the 1995-1996 year four C.M. Russell pen and inks and five oil paintings from the museum collection were conserved by the Rocky Mountain Conservation Center in Denver. Nineteen textile items were surveyed and cleaned and/or repaired by a textile conservator. A Cultural and Aesthetic grant allowed us to contract with a paintings conservator to conduct a condition assessment of the murals and sculpture in the Capitol. This is an ongoing project to preserve and conserve the artwork both in the Capitol building and throughout the Capitol complex.

Original Governor's Mansion

Since 1981, the Museum Program has administered the Original Governor's Mansion (OGM) as an historic house museum offering guided tours to visitors. Visitations to the Mansion from July 1, 1996 through June 30, 1998 numbered 13,601, plus 1,175 who attended the two annual Christmas Home Tours.

The OGM Board, a group of twelve leaders from the Helena community, supports the Museum in restoration and renovation efforts at the Mansion. They hold three major fund-raising events each year—an Ice Cream Booth at Memorial Park during July's Helena City Band Concerts, the Secret Garden Tour in July, and the Christmas Home Tour in early December. In addition, they planned and held two other events—a Helena-area Chamber of Commerce business card social, and a special home tour for the mansion's restoration fund. During the 1997 and 1998 fiscal years exterior maintenance including repair and painting of the porch and one-half of the house trim was completed; a restoration plan for the second floor Southeast bedroom proceeded; the carriage house gutter system was replaced and roof

repaired; oriental rugs were appraised; and a new underground sprinkler system was installed for landscaping purposes.

Education

The Society's wide array of educational programs serve a large number of people throughout Montana. In fiscal years 1997 and 1998, we provided programs consisting of lectures, seminars, workshops, school programs, school tours, and Capitol tours to over 76,777 individuals.

The Capitol Tour program was expanded through a commitment from the legislature and funds transferred from the Bed Tax. The Capitol Tour Program—run by an Education Assistant and six part-time Tour Guides— provides regularly scheduled tours of the Capitol building from January through September 15 and at other times by appointment. The tour script has been amended and improved. An attractive and informative self-guided Capitol Tour booklet is available when guided tours are not scheduled. Staff have been working closely with the Capitol Renovation Committee to inform the public of the need for historic renovations at the Capitol.

School programs are an important part of the educational outreach of the Museum Program. Students are provided a selection of five different tours of the museum, guided by volunteer docents. In addition, our footlocker exhibits traveled to hundreds of classrooms throughout the state. As always, footlockers were fully booked during schools sessions. A new footlocker on Montana's immigrants was added to our inventory, and two others are in the research phase. All existing footlockers were refurbished and updated. Slide programs and videos on Montana history topics were also distributed to schools.

A variety of public programs were offered throughout this period. The annual March Lecture Series covered the themes connected to our *Painting Ladies* exhibit and women in Montana. Monthly programs of the Friends of the Society were open to the public. Some of the many topics explored were: Metis stories presented by Al Wiseman; Bob Morgan discussed Charles M. Russell as illustrator; Mary Murphy spoke on her research on everyday Butte; black cowboys in the West were discussed by Alan Thompson; Karma Alfredson informed people on learning history through textiles; and Society staff spoke on subjects such as creating archival family scrapbooks, researching your home's history, publishing history books, Virginia City history, and an overview of the Society.

Special educational programs were many and broadly covered Montana history themes. Summer events, *Metis Days* and *Weaving Days,* provided outdoor demonstrations, children's activities, and special materials and activities for the public. Archaeology Week events in September featured both lectures and demonstrations. Our two exhibit openings were extremely well-received: *Rush to Glory* featured a color guard and military music while the *Hats Off!* exhibit opening—which was partially funded by Hennessey's Department Store—encouraged participants to wear their hats for a "hat fashion" contest (this was the best attended temporary exhibit opening we have ever had!). The 100th anniversary of Rural Free delivery was celebrated by a day of events, including a special USPS cancellation. A special open house was held both years of the biennium to coincide with Father's Day in June: we had unbelievable response for these behind-the-scene tours of the Society! The Education staff continued a popular series of programs—*LIVE! from the Society*—which brings programs on a variety of historical topics to communities throughout Montana: these included an *Author on the Road* series which featured writers of books published by the MHS Press and other publishing houses; a *Common Sense Collections Care* workshop provided a conservator to give preservation tips to museum staff and volunteers throughout the state;

talks and slide shows on topics such as archival management and Virginia City history were also provided.

The October 1996 Montana History Conference, *Only in Butte*, was the largest ever (over 260 attendees) and garnered much attention to the Society's statewide activities and programs. In 1997 the 24th annual Montana History Conference was held in Helena (over 210 attendees) with a theme of *Surrounded by History*. It featured history in everyday life, such as oral history, material culture, and reminiscences.

The Montana History Day Competition, formerly organized each year by the Education Office, was discontinued. Efforts to urge Montana students to research and present history were focused instead on a number of new initiatives. The Montana Heritage Project, funded by the Art Ortenberg foundation and administered through and supported by the Society, trains teachers to use historical resources in their own communities to develop student projects in history. Archeology is the focus for a new project called *Ancient Teachings*. First funded by the Society for American Archeology, this initiative has surveyed what is available in Montana for the teaching of archeology, and has investigated what is needed to provide further information for teachers. For these and other efforts to provide history education to the schools, we formed a Teachers Advisory Committee of the Society this last biennium. Teachers throughout the state meet several times a year to provide us with ideas, comments, and evaluations of the educational programming the Society provides.

Our volunteer corps, The Friends of the Society, has continued to give us invaluable assistance. Categories of volunteers include: the Muses (who plan and host receptions), the Docents (who serve as volunteer tour guides for school groups), the Department Assistance Volunteers (who assist staff with daily tasks throughout the Society), and the Hot Shots! (our rapid respond team who assist with a variety of tasks needed to be accomplished ASAP). The Friends of the Society provided us with the equivalent of 3 FTE this biennium, helping to alleviate some problems caused by severe staff shortages. Through the Montana Historical Society Foundation, we established a temporary part-time position to coordinate volunteer activities; this position has been greatly needed for years and has proved invaluable for the short time of its' existence.

Major Grants Received

A 1995 IMS General Operating Support grant of $49,504 awarded to the Museum was completed this biennium. This two-year grant allowed us to hire part-time support staff and provide an assessment of the services provided by the Society through visitor/audience surveys, including a statewide "Public Awareness" telephone questionnaire. Another grant, from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, allowed us to determine the effectiveness of the Society's public programming and outreach activities. Museums Assessment III will help us critically assess the educational services we provide and determine their effectiveness. The two components of this project involved self-assessment activities and an on-site visit by two museum education consultants. The information gained from this process will be invaluable in determining how and what we present in the way of educational programming to our public.

A special project to plan and hold statewide training sessions for museum workers was funded by the Montana Cultural Trust. *Common Sense Care: Preventive Conservation for Museum Collections* workshops were presented across the state from Hamilton to Sidney in 1996 and 1997. In addition to providing a day-long workshop conducted by a professional conservator addressing everyday problems encountered by small museums, this program included on-site visits to museums for individual consultations. A total of fourteen

workshops and twenty-two on-site consultations were presented both in rural and urban communities throughout the state.

The Montana Heritage Project—a high school/community heritage partnership project that began in 1995 and is administered by the Society—has been extremely active throughout the State. The project, funded by a $125,000 grant from the Art Ortenberg Foundation and the Library of Congress, focuses on training teachers to conduct class projects which engage students in local history. The students learn to conduct primary research and utilize community resources. The project is monitored by the Education Officer and involves many of the Society's staff as consultants. The Heritage Project will continue in the next biennium.

The Society for American Archeology provided a grant to the MHS which allowed us to survey Montana teachers and archeologists to find out what archeology education programs are currently being offered in Montana schools. From this *Ancient Teachings* project, recommendations were developed, workshops for teachers were developed and presented, and a bibliography on teaching sources was produced.

An International Partnership Among Museums grant, funded by the International Council of Museums, was awarded to the Society for funding of a staff exchange between the Museum and Alberta Historic Sites Service. The resultant travel between Alberta and Montana provided us with an opportunity to see how operations and programming differ between our two countries while allowing us opportunities to investigate future collaborative projects.

THE 2000-2001 BIENNIUM

The Museum Program will be facing many challenges during the next biennium. We are seeing increased demand for services each year. Requests for technical assistance, traveling exhibits, educational programs, school curriculum material, loans for outside exhibits and reference queries are out pacing our current staff's ability to keep up with them.

We will continue to place care of Museum collections as a program priority. Federal funds will again be sought to accomplish specific projects to improve storage conditions, especially for our collections housed off-site. The cramped conditions in our present storage areas and the woefully inadequate conditions at our off-site storage location must be addressed. Improvements must be made within a short time span to preserve the integrity of the museum collections. We will also seek funds to continue our efforts to provide conservation services to museums and individuals throughout Montana.

There are many repairs at the Original Governor's Mansion which have been needed for some time, but are now critical to have accomplished including: capping of the chimneys, repair and painting of window frames, bird nesting eradication, and replacement of a deteriorating brick wall in the Carriage House. Plans for the exterior maintenance of the Mansion are now in place and will begin in the spring of 1997. We have also developed plans for restoration of the Southeast bedroom. The project will involve: architectural research, reproducing the original wall fabric, obtaining an appropriate light fixture, installing historically accurate window coverings, and painting. The total $16,000 needed will be raised by the Original Governor's Mansion Restoration Society and other private funding sources with the assistance of Museum staff.

Documentation of collections is another area where improvement is needed. Cataloguing activity must continue at a brisk pace to keep up with our need for records management, a full inventory of collections is past due, and computerization of information concerning Museum collections is critical. A database and additional computer equipment are needed before we

undertake the inventory project—and additional temporary staff will be required. Increased use of our collections as a reference source also necessitates improved access to collections data. It is important that these issues of information management be addressed. Insurance, audit and professional museum concerns are reasons to address these issues. However, our current limited personnel and financial resources will make it difficult to make much improvement in this arena without additional general fund monies.

Educational activities have been successful but our efforts in this area cannot currently meet the needs of our audience. We must also try to reach audience segments who have not traditionally been served adequately; groups such as foreign language speakers, disabled groups and ethnic minorities. Efforts to reach the statewide audience outside Helena with programs and historical resources continue and will be stepped up when possible. Recently programs such as the Montana History Conference and our traveling exhibits have met with great success throughout the state. The Museum will try to acquire funds for educational activities, including: a new series of Montana history footlockers for schools, video presentations and additional publications to coincide with our exhibits—such as catalogs and school curriculum materials. We will be investigating ways to continue funding the half-time Volunteer Coordinator to promote volunteerism and direct volunteer activities in a more productive and efficient manner.

During the next biennium, the Museum will produce three major in-house exhibits—*Through the Artist's Eye: The Paintings and Photographs of R.E. DeCamp, Justice on Horseback: A History of Law Enforcement in Montana,* and *Saving Place: the Restoration of Montana's Capitol*—and two traveling exhibits—photographic show featuring Farm Security Administration images from the 1930s, and contemporary depictions of Montana ghost towns.

Additional changes to our three permanent exhibits are also scheduled, including a "Montana Symbols" introduction and new title panels for *Montana Homeland* . Additionally, many small exhibits will be mounted that feature distinct parts of the Society's collections—such as pocket watches, other thematic groupings of artifacts, or new acquisitions—in the Reflections Gallery, in the lobby and in other parts of the building. *The Gallery of Outstanding Montanans* in the Capitol will also be updated and amended regularly. We also will be engaged in future exhibit planning—the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial will be among the exhibit themes we will be exploring.

As always the Museum Program will strive for educational excellence in presentation of all of our exhibits, programs, research, and publications.

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Montana Historical Society Publications Program consists of three departments: its nationally recognized, award-winning quarterly history journal, Montana The Magazine of Western History; its book publishing division, the Montana Historical Society Press, the state's only academic book publisher; and the Montana Historical Society Museum Store. The program also is responsible for publication of the Society's quarterly newsletter, the Montana Post, and facilitating production of occasional publications such as the Society's annual history conference program, the annual museum store catalog, reports, pamphlets and catalogs to accompany museum exhibits, and a variety of promotional items such as advertising, brochures, flyers, and special mailings.

Cooperative Projects. The MHS Publications Program continues to be closely linked with other historical and cultural agencies and institutions both in Montana and outside the state. The Publications Program has coordinated and cooperated with the Center for the Rocky Mountain West, the Montana Committee for the Humanities, the Montana Department of Transportation, the Wyoming Council for the Humanities, the Frontier Heritage Alliance, the University of Montana, Montana State University, the University of Great Falls, and other institutions and agencies to sponsor conferences, symposia, and other public presentations on a diversity of topics, from Joseph Kinsey Howard to the Bozeman Trail, to A. B. Guthrie. Out of such public programming, the Publications Program frequently draws books, articles, and conference proceedings for publication and dissemination.

Intern Program. In addition, the Publications Program has continued with a highly successful internship program made possible by a $10,000 grant from Phi Alpha Theta, the national honor society in history. The program will enable undergraduate and graduate students from Montana institutions of higher learning to obtain course credit while working at the Society in any one of several capacities, including library/archives, museum, publications, and state historic preservation.

FISCAL YEAR 1998-1999 ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Magazine

Publication of the Society's quarterly history magazine is one way in which the Society fulfills its statutory mission of preserving Montana history and providing educational outreach. Established in 1951, Montana The Magazine of Western History enjoyed virtually instant success. Initially published in the traditional 6"x 9" format of other state historical journals, Montana was enlarged within two years to its present over-sized format to accommodate more historical articles, illustrations, and full-color western art on the cover. Since then, the formula for the journal's continued success has been maintained: well-researched, well-written articles that make significant contributions to Montana and western history; generous illustration with historical photographs, maps, charts, and other illustration; tasteful, engaging western art reproduced in high quality full color on the magazine's cover.

This formula has worked well for the magazine. Montana is regarded as the finest historical journal of its kind in the nation and is a pace-setter in format, design, content, illustration, and general presentation of historical information. The magazine's circulation of more than 11,000 includes 7,500 lay readers, some 2,000 quarterly newsstand sales, and, by contract, the more than 1,500 regular members of the Western History Association. The Montana Historical Society is nearing its fifteenth year of this contractual relationship with the WHA, an organization whose membership represents more than 90 percent of all western history professionals (including academic historians, National Park Service and other public historians, state and local historians, and western writers). Montana circulates in all fifty states and fifteen foreign countries, as well as to 150 public libraries, county historical societies, and local history museums in Montana and to another 150 public and university libraries outside the state. Thus, Montana is a service to thousands of Montana residents and serves as a vehicle by which the state and its rich cultural heritage are promoted throughout the nation and all over the world.

During the past two years, the Publications Program has attempted to further upgrade, streamline, and expand its operations in an ongoing effort to improve overall quality, cost-effectiveness, and outreach.

Increased Circulation. This is being accomplished through direct mail solicitation of new subscribers and distribution for newsstand sales through a number of national distributors.

More than 200,000 pieces of direct mail promotional material have invited recipients to subscribe to the magazine and become members of the Montana Historical Society in the last two years. Lists of names have been obtained from other western state historical societies, western university presses, western trail organizations and other western history buff groups, as well as the alumni associations of the state's two major universities. Returns have recovered costs and maintained or increased magazine circulation. Renewals in the second year from new subscribers have averaged more than 50 percent.

In addition, through special contracts with distribution agencies based in Helena and elsewhere, Montana is available on newsstands in book stores such as Hastings and Waldens, museums, local historical societies, western historical sites, airports, and grocery stores nationwide.

Upgraded Design. After simplifying the magazine's design four years ago, we have continued to effect a cleaner, more attractive appearance and improved design to create a magazine that is easier than ever to read and to use as a historical record. Having doubled use of historical photographs, illustrations, maps, and other such material in previous years, we have continued this expansion and have further enhanced our ability to create historical maps and charts in-house. Last year, we changed the magazine's typeface, from Century Old Style to Monotype Bulmer, and either instituted new or refined existing graphic design elements to improve appearance and function.

Improved Content. During the past several years we have recruited some of the best historians and writers working in western history, including Stephen Ambrose, Robert M. Utley, Elliott West, Ivan Doig, Bill Kittredge, Paul Hutton, Brian Dippie, James P. Ronda, James Welch, Elmer Kelton, and John Taliaferro. The magazine has provided offerings on a diversity of topics, including exploration and settlement, transportation and Yellowstone National Park, Native American and women's history, regional literature, biography, popular culture, the fur trade, and western film. Specific articles have focused on Montana artists and writers Norman Maclean, Charles M. Russell, Joseph Henry Sharp, and Frederic Remington, Wallace Stegner, the Pony Express, Lewis and Clark, Disneyland and the western myth, and, in a special theme issue, Butte, Montana. Response to that issue, released in Autumn 1998, was so overwhelming that it had to be reprinted, the first time an issue of the magazine has had to be reprinted since Volume 1, Number 1, in 1951.

Broadened Advertising. Postal regulations require that the magazine devote no more than 10 percent of its space to advertising. In-house policy requires that the magazine carry only high-quality advertising directly related to western history. (Almost all magazine advertising promotes new or rare and out-of-print books on western history and literature.) To maximize a limited opportunity, we have made contractual arrangements with seven university presses and with an assortment of antiquarian dealers. The effect has been to regularize billing, income and cash-flow, and planning for the magazine's advertising space needs.

Upgraded Equipment and Personnel. Seven years ago, the Publications Program purchased $17,000 worth of equipment and hired a half-time assistant editor with a background in creative design and computer expertise to do, for the first time in-house, all magazine and book typesetting, computer imaging layout, and production of printer-ready material for the Montana Post and other, more occasional publications such as brochures, history conference programs, flyers, promotional material, and magazine inserts.

The decision to operate these functions in-house has proven highly efficient and cost-effective. The position and the equipment have easily paid for themselves, even with the continued necessary upgrading of equipment and reclassification of the position into a full-time graphic designer. The effect has been to enable the Society's publications program to keep pace with rapidly changing technologies and other innovations in the printing and production industry, to broaden the publication program's ability to assist with other Society activities, and to assume added responsibilities related to the MHS Press.

Plans for Montana The Magazine of Western History for the next two years include:

Continued direct mail promotion to maintain and increase magazine circulation and with it financial stability.

Continued efforts to enhance magazine visibility through other forms of advertising and program participation in historical conferences, symposia, and related programs.

Increased cooperative efforts with other state institutions involved with Montana and western history. These include cooperative symposia with the state's institutions of higher education, the results of which are often published in the magazine and contribute to anthologies published by the MHS Press, and encouraging oral history and other historical projects that produce timely and significant interviews and essays suitable for publication.

Maintaining the high quality of the magazine's appearance and content that Montana readers have come to expect. Such quality helps project a favorable, inviting, and respected image for the state and its history.

Montana Historical Society Press

Over the past two years the Montana Historical Society Press has continued its expansion. While the Press published only six titles in 1995 and 1996, it published ten titles in 1997 and 1998. Books published during the last biennium have been remarkably well received by both western history scholars and lay readers, with positive reviews coming from media as diverse and far flung as The Chicago Tribune; Western Historical Quarterly, the journal of the Western History Association; and Wild West, a popular, and widely distributed monthly magazine. Responses have been equally enthusiastic inside Montana, with Montana Historical Society Press books inevitably garnering favorable reviews in weekly and daily papers across the state.

Titles published in the last two years include When You and I Were Young, Whitefish, by Dorothy Johnson; Autobiography of Red Cloud: War Leader of the Oglalas, edited by R. Eli Paul; Speaking of Montana: A Guide to the Oral History Collection at the Montana Historical Society, edited by Jodie Foley and Dave Walter; Frontier Soldier: An Enlisted Man's Journal of the Sioux and Nez Perce Campaigns, 1877, edited by Jerome A. Greene; and Voyages of Discovery: Essays on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, edited by James P. Ronda.

Last spring the Montana Historical Society was pleased to copublish with Salish Kootenai College Press Over a Century of Moving to the Drum: Salish Celebrations on the Flathead Indian Reservation, by Johnny Arlee. This book is the first of what we expect to be a number of books copublished with Salish Kootenai College Press. Through such copublishing arrangements, the Montana Historical Society is able to support the good work of the Salish Kootenai College Press by sharing with SKC Press the Society's publishing expertise and marketing network. Future copublished volumes will include

reprints of children's books of Indian legends originally developed for the Salish and Kootenai tribes by the Northwest Reading Center.

Two books in the Press's new Montana Mainstreets series were published this fall: Volume 1: Guide to Historic Virginia City; and Volume 2: Guide to Historic Glendive. This series, produced with support from the Montana Cultural Trust and the featured communities, is designed to promote cultural tourism and historic preservation efforts by making broadly accessible information collected by the State Historic Preservation Office on historic structures and districts across Montana. "Guide to Historic Lewistown," the third volume in the series, is scheduled for release in May 1999, in conjunction with Lewistown's centennial celebration.

As the number of Press titles in print expands, so too do Press activities in marketing, distribution, and publicity. A distribution agreement with Falcon Press of Helena continues to provide excellent marketing for Press books. A measure of our marketing success is that the Press reprinted seven titles last summer, including Voyages of Discovery, which was published a mere three months earlier.

The Society's public relations officer continues to assure extensive press coverage of Society books both within Montana and throughout the United States. Especially exciting has been the continuation, with the help of the Society's education department, of author talks and book signings by Press authors under the auspices of the "Live from the Society" series. In spring 1998, Jerome Greene, editor of Frontier Soldier, gave book talks in eleven Montana communities: Lewistown, Harlowton, White Sulphur Springs, Bozeman, Helena, Great Falls, Chinook, Havre, Red Lodge, Miles City, and Roundup. In Autumn 1997, R. Eli Paul, editor of Autobiography of Red Cloud, addressed audiences in Hardin, Bozeman, Miles City, Livingston, and Red Lodge.

In the next two years, the Press plans to publish twelve titles, including three more Montana Mainstreet guides; Russell expert Brian W. Dippie's anthology on Charles M. Russell, forthcoming in Spring 1999; the definitive history of the Nez Perce War by renown military historian Jerome A. Greene; "Seeing Montana: A Portrait of the 1930s and 1940s," a history seen through Farm Security Administration photographs by Montana State University professor Mary Murphy; and a two-volume compendium of Bozeman Trail emigrant diaries, edited by Bozeman Trail specialist Susan Badger Doyle. The last is to be complemented by the Bozeman Trail Heritage Conference, to be held in Bozeman in 1999.

Museum Store

The Publications Program is responsible for managing the Society's museum gift shop. The Museum Store continues to operate in a fashion responsive to public demand primarily through direct mail to a broad base of people interested in Montana and western history and in a way that makes itself compatible with Helena area businesses. Store proceeds support the MHS Press. In addition to offering merchandise appropriate and suitable to a state historical society, especially books, magazines, and prints related to Montana history and literature, the store serves as a clearinghouse for a number of questions and requests for information and assistance, which are answered free of charge or directed to appropriate programs within the Society or to other state offices or private institutions.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The mission of the Historic Preservation Office is to provide assistance to people in the state--individuals, organizations, units of government and government agencies--to preserve significant historic and prehistoric buildings and sites in their ownership or care. Office staff provide advice, technical assistance, economic support and legal consultations when required by statute.

Funding for the program is based on Department of the Interior allocations through an agreement with the state. As required by the terms of the federal program, office staff is comprised of historians, architectural historians, archaeologists, an architect, and local government/grant administrators. The federal share of office operations constitutes about 90% of costs with a required additional 30% being "matched" by other public and private preservation expenditures in the state.

Specific office services include:

Helping Montanans research and list worthy properties in the National Register of Historic Places;

Regranting federal funds to help communities conduct or conducting ourselves systematic research on groups of properties that might qualify for the Register;

Giving technical assistance to Montana developers, architects, and building owners needed to secure federal tax credits available for the rehabilitation of historic, income-producing buildings;

Certifying Montana local governments to work with the office in setting up local preservation commissions;

Consulting with federal and state agencies, as required by federal and state preservation legislation, so that projects undertaken by those agencies might occur with limited impact to significant cultural resources;

Providing technical assistance on a wide range of preservation topics: building care; historic property research; archaeological site protection; preservation laws and regulations;

Maintaining data on all cultural sites and buildings in Montana and on all previous inventories conducted to find and evaluate historic and prehistoric sites;

Sponsoring educational and interpretive efforts to demonstrate the economic and social values of historic sites; and

Assisting other organizations, groups, and individuals working with historic and archaeological site protection (Native American culture committees, statewide organizations, local organizations, etc.).

FISCAL YEAR 1998-1999 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

National Register Nominations

In the past biennium the office has helped property owners nominate 32 sites to the national register of historic places. In addition and at the request of local people and property owners, three historic districts were added constituting 1,476 buildings. A nomination for tepee rings, made unnecessarily controversial, was circulated for additional comments and more thought. Communities and individuals will use these designations to promote historic qualities of their property for entrepreneurial, educational and social objectives. The personal pride and enrichment offered by recognition granted through registration is reflected in the many subsequent requests for historic site signs, interest in restoration and requests for historical information made of the SHPO office and local sources like the Anaconda historic preservation commission. All regions of the state, in fact, almost all counties, have national register properties. Consequently, the office deals with people state-wide and from all walks of life.

Cooperative Compliance

The office has established new and improved working relationships with a host of federal and state agencies, all responsible for the protection of historic places under their jurisdiction. New and revised long-term agreements between agencies and the SHPO have cut red tape, reduced the number of times it is necessary to consult, more carefully identified and therefore reduced the number of projects which are considered potentially harmful to historic places and increased cooperative research and management practices among agencies, therefore sharing resources more efficiently. For example, to reduce instances of field visits the office has adopted the policy of encouraging the use of initial reports as recordation mitigation in certain instances. To address problems associated with assessing impacts on and preservation of historic mining, the office is cooperating in the development of a state-wide, multi-agency plan for those resources. Overall, the office seeks to emphasize the cooperative possibilities which makes working together to solve more difficult issues easier.

Administrative Rules

A set of rules required by the 1974 State Antiquities Act were created and put into effect this biennium. The rules clarify certain procedures and identify standards as required by recent amendments to the act. Special expertise needed for the protection of paleontological remains is addressed. The rules also provide a guide for agency personnel unfamiliar with dealing with historic preservation values and impact considerations. To reduce paper work and excessive reporting the rules specify that the mitigation plan for impacts to historic places required of state agencies in the act be limited to one page of text.

Upgrade of State Archaeological Sites Database

Over the biennium the office has upgraded its management capabilities by transferring data on some 35,000 historic, archaeological and paleontological sites in the state from an antiquated database program to ORACLE, the state standard. In addition, the ORACLE program has been programmed to automatically input and extract site information in the course of project reviews so that when a site is impacted by a federal project that information is inserted when staff respond in comment to the agency. This system replaces several steps with one.

In a similar effort to reduce time and effort, the office has developed, in conjunction with MSU and the Bureau of Land Management, a communications system allowing Bureau personnel to view data pertaining to historic preservation on file with the SHPO.

Finally, the SHPO and the National Park Service have an agreement to produce electronic mapping information in anticipation of bringing the state's ability to manage its heritage sites up to date.

Virginia City Assistance

The challenges of planning for and conducting the stabilization, restoration and long-term preservation of almost 200 buildings in Nevada City and Virginia City have proven complex and time consuming. The SHPO has assisted both Montana Historical Society and Heritage Preservation and Development Commission efforts to undertake these tasks by providing advice, technical information and reports.

Daly Mansion

Playing a very specific role in the preservation of one of the state's most significant historic places, the office prepared drawn plans, written specifications, and contact documents for the restoration and reconstruction of the expansive front entry of the Daly Mansion, a property owned by the Society. Construction on this project is underway, the initial phase of a multi-year project to restore and repair the house. The Daly Mansion has suffered major damage from water intrusion over the years and requires repairs to plaster as well as mechanical and electrical upgrades.

Archaeological Research

Archaeological fieldwork initiated by the Montana Historical Society in 1997 and 1998 was constrained by lack of funds. No new private grants or program survey funds were committed to archaeological fieldwork during this period. Some new survey was performed in the Gallatin-Madison River divide with carry-over funds from the 1992-1995 Flying D Ranch Archaeological Project supported by the non-profit Turner Foundation. This new work resulted in the discovery and recording of three new archaeological sites, including an unusual prehistoric stone feature in the form of a human figure (24MA1747: Anderson-Roe Petraform). Documentation and reporting of the 1992-1995 Flying D Ranch Archaeological Project also continues with analyses supported in part by the private funds.

Other archaeological field opportunities for the Montana Historical Society in 1997 and 1998 were developed from partnerships with other agencies and organizations. Among these, MHS archaeologists cooperated with the University of Montana in archaeological excavations at the Tree Frog Spring site in the Centennial Valley, with the Montana Archaeological Society in the survey and recording of a prehistoric stone tool quarry outside McAllister, with the Lewis & Clark National Forest in back country survey of the Scapegoat Wilderness Area, and with the Crow Tribe in the recording of a medicine wheel near Fort Smith.

Finally, systematic upgrades and updates of the statewide archaeological database (Cultural Resource Information System) are currently being made under a task agreement funded by the Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office. Once completed in the spring of 1999, these improvements will provide on-line, up-to-date information regarding cultural resource inventory and properties around the state for use in management, planning, and compliance activities, setting the stage for a more

sophisticated and responsive electronic management system for the state's cultural resources.

Archaeology Outreach

Under the theme of engaging the public and other professional and avocational archaeologists in projects together, the SHPO undertook major activities in that regard this biennium. In archaeology education, the Montana Historical Society was one of two states nationwide to receive a competitive grant from the national Society for American Archaeology to develop resources and materials for teaching archaeology in K-12 classrooms. Under this grant, the MHS educational and SHPO staff developed Montana Ancient Teachings: A Curriculum for Archaeology and Prehistory (Grades 4-8), compiled the Montana Archaeology Education Resource Catalog for teachers (http://www.his.mt.gov - under ?Preservation?), and introduced both products at teacher workshops in conjunction with the 1997 and 1998 Montana History Conference.

Archaeological outreach activities in 1997 and 1998 included SHPO lead coordination of state and federal agencies and private organizations in statewide Montana Archaeology Week activities in both years, including development of Archaeology Week posters and scheduling of public presentations around the state. Programs presented for the general public were to encourage an appreciation for archaeological sites, artifacts and the life ways of ancient peoples. Thirty-six events were held throughout the state, preceded by public announcements and hosted by agencies, groups and private businesses. Over five hundred people attended and participated.

Working directly with agencies and the interested public, the SHPO has undertaken its several field projects to both contribute to the understanding of archaeology and give people hands-on archaeological opportunities.

Historic Preservation Outreach

Working with people is the most rewarding aspect of historic preservation. SHPO staff are in daily contact with citizens of the state seeking information on historic buildings, sites and archaeological properties. Outreach services provided by the SHPO include site visits to provide restoration and rehabilitation advice; archaeological consultations with interested landowners and examinations of property for people wanting to nominate historic buildings. In addition, the SHPO participates with local preservation offices and the National Trust for Historic Preservation in conducting community preservation workshops. Through its assistance to local historic preservation commissions, the SHPO supports literally thousands of historic homeowners and business people. Local commissions, several of which are city/county, exist throughout the state, namely in Hardin/Big Horn County; Helena/Lewis and Clark County; Billings/Yellowstone County; Virginia City; Great Falls/Cascade County; Missoula/Missoula County; Red Lodge/Carbon County; Anaconda; Bozeman; Butte-Silver Bow; Lewistown; Miles City; Livingston and, soon, West Yellowstone.

Native American Consultation

Providing assistance to and consulting with Native American people regarding their interests is a SHPO role. A staff member serves on the state burial board, an entity dealing with the sensitive issues regarding human remains. During the biennium, some burial issues were resolved. The office maintains contact with tribal cultural contacts, most recently participating in the nomination of the Sleeping Buffalo, an important and sacred object. Staff recorded a very significant medicine wheel and consulted with tribal

preservation officers where project plans involved Native American sacred and historic sites.

Mainstreets Program

The office has participated in the examination of a Montana Mainstreets Program, assessing its possibilities in light of the state's needs and is helping create a practical application for those needs.

National Register Sign Program

This program remains highly popular and is the single-most effective means of proclaiming the historic qualities of a site to the public. Over 150 signs were ordered by Montanans during the last two years and the demand is increasing. Additionally, new needs for providing historic information to the visiting public have been answered through the sign program. A Native American sign was produced and a signage scheme for Nevada and Virginia City contemplated.

THE 2000-2001 BIENNIUM

The SHPO will continue to work with as many Montana residents, business people, agencies, communities, tribes and groups as possible to find historic preservation solutions. The theme of cooperative consultation will continue to set the tone for regulatory work associated with federal and state requirements directed at protecting heritage properties. In addition, as many individuals as can be accommodated by office resources will be invited to participate in archaeological and historic activities.

The proper identification and management of state-owned resources, such as paleontological remains on state land, will be improved, given adequate resources. In-the-field examinations, remote sensing techniques and improved electronic data and mapping of such resources will be attempted.

Should the state undertake a state main street program, the office will be fully engaged in its support of community main street activities.

The preservation and interpretation of Nevada City and Virginia City will continue to receive the support of the SHPO. Other Society properties, the Daly Mansion, Moss Mansion, Wolf Point Bridge and Governor's Mansion will be provided technical advice. In addition, the communities with historic preservation commissions will also obtain the support of the office.

Historic preservation plans will be prepared to make regulatory and other historic preservation activities more efficient and professional.

The office will continue to work with historic preservation groups like the Montana Preservation Alliance and the Montana Archaeological Society to forward the objectives of these groups.

Finally, the office will continue to attempt to increase matching general funds so that its obligations and legislative directives, now fiscally impaired, can be fulfilled.

MONTANA HERITAGE PRESERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

OVERVIEW

The Montana Heritage Preservation and Development Commission was created by the 55th Legislature and is administratively connected to the Montana Historical Society. The Commission was given the responsibility to manage state-owned properties in Virginia City and Nevada City. The summers of 1997 and 1998 were the first two seasons of operations for the sites. A complete report of Commission activities will be published in late 1998, and is available upon request.

MONTANA LEWIS & CLARK BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

OVERVIEW

The Montana Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission was established by the 1997 Montana Legislature, and by statute will sunset as of December 31, 2007. This new commission, which has the status of a state agency, is administratively attached to the Montana Historical Society. As stated in its enabling legislation, the Commission is "responsible for coordinating and promoting observance of Montana's bicentennial commemoration of the Lewis & Clark expedition and the importance of the roles played by Montana's Indian people to the Lewis & Clark Expedition."

The Commission may cooperate with national, regional, statewide, and local events promoting the bicentennial; plan and coordinate or assist in planning and coordinating bicentennial events; engage in fundraising activities, including revenue-earning enterprises and the solicitation of grants, gifts, and donations; promote public education concerning the Lewis & Clark expedition and the history and culture of Montana's Indian people at the time of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, and; perform other related duties.

STRUCTURE

The Commission is comprised of twelve members, as follows: nine members who must be appointed by the Governor, at least three of whom must be enrolled members of a Montana Indian tribe and live on a Montana Indian reservation, who shall serve 3-year staggered terms, who shall represent Montana's different geographical areas, and who must have an interest in the history of the Lewis & Clark Expedition; the administrator of the Parks Division within the Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks; the director of the Montana Historical Society, and; the director of Travel Montana.

Hired by the Commission; the Executive Director is responsible for the development and implementation of policies and programs of the Commission. The Executive Director is responsible for the overall performance of the programs and services of the Montana Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission.

The operations of the Commission are presently funded primarily through a grant from Travel Montana. Supplemental funding is realized from the Montana Historical Society, and specific "in-kind" technical expertise is being provided by the Parks Division of the

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Future funding for the Commission's operations and projected re-grant program is anticipated to be realized through a variety of sources to include grants, gifts, donations, legislative appropriations, logo licensing royalties and sponsorships.

MISSION

The Commission members have crafted the following as their Mission Statement:

"In commemoration of the bicentennial of the Lewis & Clark Expedition of 1803-1806, it shall be the mission of the Montana Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission to be the officially recognized leader in planning and coordinating the observance of the Bicentennial in Montana. The Commission shall provide statewide focus, direction and oversight, while facilitating the effective delivery of technical guidance and assistance to communities, groups and individuals. The Commission will focus on public education, coordination of events, the promotion of historical and cultural awareness and sensitivity, recognition of Native American involvement, and responsible stewardship for the natural and cultural resources along the route of the Expedition."

GOALS

The Commission has identified the following four main goals as their immediate priorities:

1) Promote public awareness and provide leadership and coordination in the planning, development, marketing and presentation of state, regional and national Lewis & Clark Bicentennial activities among Indian nations, public agencies, communities and private sector organizations and individuals.

2) Coordinate, promote and serve as a principle leader in all educational endeavors regarding the Lewis & Clark Expedition.

3) Create Montana Lewis & Clark Bicentennial legacies which will serve to educate, inform and entertain both residents and non-residents for years beyond 2006.

4) Operate within a well-defined organizational structure that emphasizes fiscal responsibility and centralized technical expertise.